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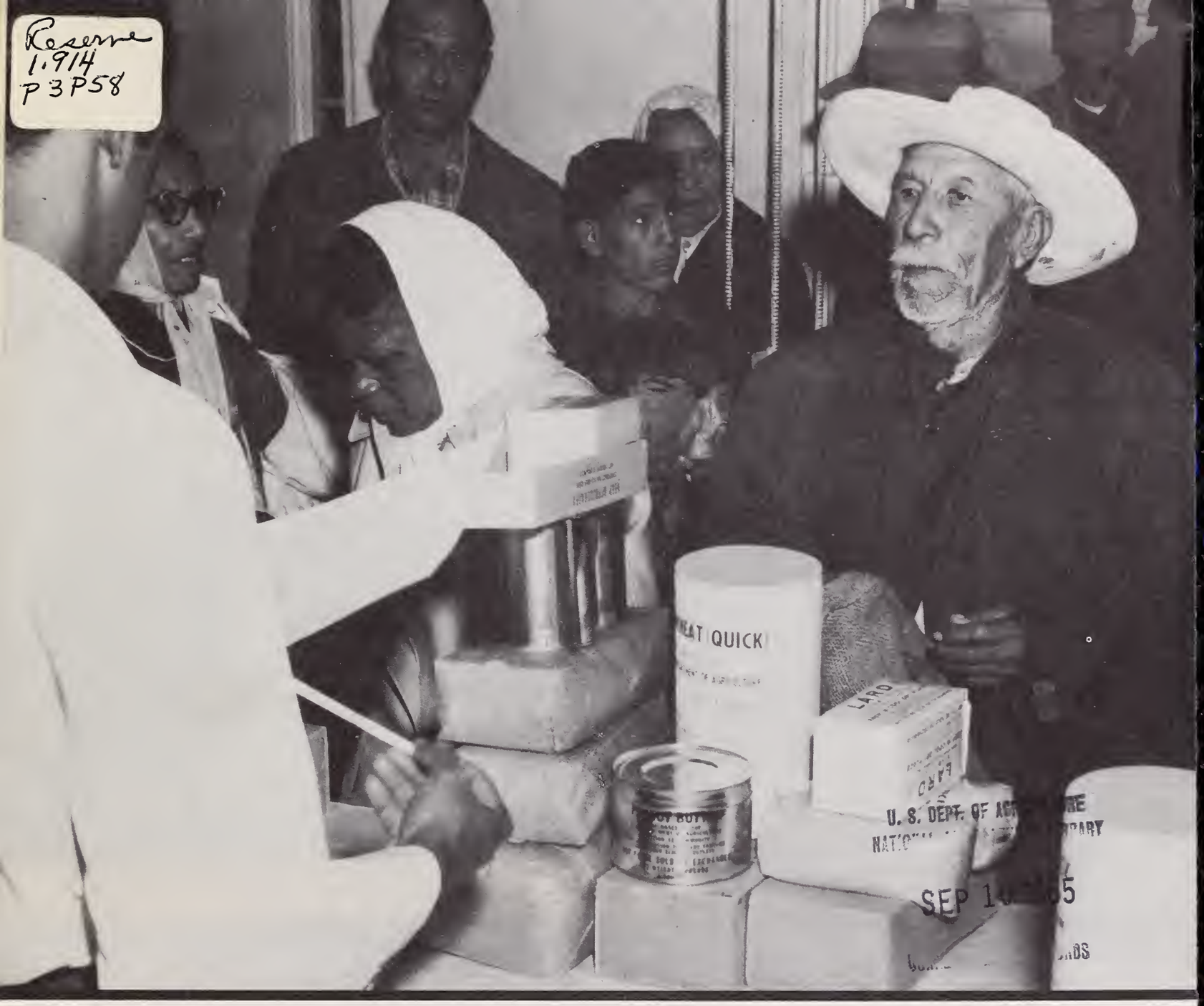


Through the direct donation of foods to needy families, about 5.3 million people with low incomes are now able to enjoy a better diet. N-52060

Food in Time of Need

USDA'S COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The United States, as no other Nation, has ample food supplies to meet all needs. Through its Consumer and Marketing Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture carries out several activities that help needy citizens and school children share in this food abundance.

The Commodity Distribution Program is one of these. Stocks of Government-owned foods are donated to improve the diets of children in public and nonprofit private schools, summer camps and charitable institutions, and for needy persons in charitable institutions and in needy family households. Thus, the Commodity Distribution Program makes effective use of farm products (acquired by USDA in its price-support and surplus-removal operations to help expand farmers' markets.)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE **Picture Story No. 186**

Consumer and Marketing Service **July 1965**

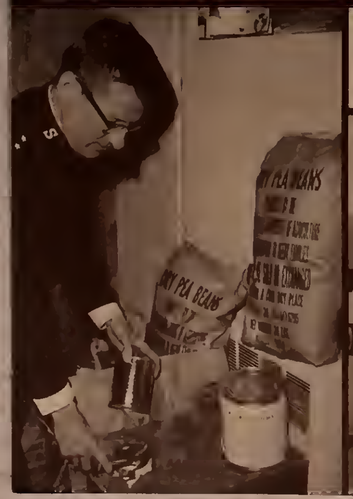
Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., 20250. Others may purchase (8x10) at $1.15 each from the same address. Specify title and number of this publication.

A Salvation Army officer unpacks USDA-donated foods to use for disaster feeding. USDA foods are always available to disaster agencies such as this for emergency feeding operations. ST-224-7

EMERGENCY FEEDING

Top priority for donated foods always goes to victims of disasters. During hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, people frequently find food and shelter at their local schools. Stocks of USDA food donated to the schools for the school lunch program may be used immediately in an emergency, and replenished later. Usually State distributing agencies and school officials have planned in advance for emergency feeding and have extra food on hand. The food is also available for emergency use from family distribution centers and from county and State warehouses.

Victims of a tornado find food and refuge in a fire house at Dunlap, Indiana. Over 1,000 persons were served here with USDA commodities during the first day of operation. The feeding center was kept open until normal food supply lines were functioning again. ST-222-9



A Salvation Army officer unpacks USDA-donated foods to use for disaster feeding. USDA foods are always available to disaster agencies such as this for emergency feeding operations. ST-224-7

This was the scene after a recent tornado in the Mid-West. When local food supplies or normal distribution channels are destroyed, USDA rushes additional supplies to State agencies. ST-217-6

Papago Indians receive donated food at their reservation in Sells, Arizona. All needy Indians on reservations share in America's food assistance programs. Those off reservation also receive donated foods where programs are in operation. N-44341

Families whose income and financial resources are not sufficient to buy enough food may apply for USDA commodities at their local public welfare office, if it is participating in a food assistance program. Applicants must meet State and local requirements and standards of economic need to receive food assistance. BN-25209

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Families who do not have money to buy enough food for a proper diet may receive donated foods in many areas of the country where State and local communities are participating in the USDA food donation program. To receive food, a responsible member of the family must apply at his local public welfare agency, which is responsible for certifying applicants. State and local governmental agencies also arrange for the transportation, storage, and distribution of the foods. In some cases, communities may get financial assistance from the Office of Economic Opportunity to pay the distribution costs as part of a community action plan. (See back page for more information.)

Persons receiving Social Security payments are generally eligible for donated foods. N-52068

Nutrition education is an important part of the Commodity Distribution Program. An employee, left, of the commodity distribution center at San Antonio, Texas, and a home economist demonstrate ways to use USDA foods. The demonstrations are given in both English and Spanish. N-52049

These children eat a hot, well-balanced lunch each school day through the School Lunch Program at Finzer Elementary School, Louisville, Kentucky. With USDA donated foods and Federal, State and local efforts, the school is able to serve 25 percent of the lunches free or at reduced rates. N-51800

SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

USDA-donated foods are also distributed widely by the Consumer and Marketing Service to help schools provide nutritious lunches to students at low-cost—and at no cost to needy children, in many instances. Public and nonprofit schools having a food service may receive the price-support and surplus-removal commodities whether or not they participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Additionally, C&MS distributes specially-purchased foods to schools in the National School Lunch Program, to assist them in meeting the nutritional requirements of the Type A lunches. These foods generally include frozen and canned meat and poultry items, and a variety of canned fruits and vegetables especially suited for children's lunches.

The USDA foods donated to schools account for about 20 percent of all foods used in the lunches with the other 80 percent bought locally by the schools.

The USDA also donates free surplus foods to child development centers operated by communities under "Head Start," a program of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Head Start centers are developed for pre-school age children of limited opportunity. Because they come from needy families, many of the children receive poor nutrition at home. Thus, their bodies, and their minds need preparation for school work. Sponsors of individual centers often enlist the help of restaurant owners, managers, food merchants, and dieticians from local hospitals, schools and factories.

Other institutions such as homes for the elderly, orphanages and hospitals serving needy people also receive food donations from USDA. An estimated 1.4 million needy people in institutions regularly share the benefits of these foods.

Approximately 1.4 million people in institutions, such as homes for the elderly, benefit from USDA surplus commodities at mealtime. N-57408.

USDA commodities are made available to non-profit camps such as those run by the Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, and various churches and charitable organizations. S-17799

This child is being trained to enter school in the fall, at a Head Start Center, developed through the Office of Economic Opportunity. Much of the food he will eat at lunchtime is composed of commodities donated by the USDA. BN-25210

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—Additional information regarding the Commodity Distribution Program may be obtained from the Commodity Distribution Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Information about Community Action Programs, administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity, may be obtained through the OEO State Technical Assistance Office, OEO Regional Office, or from OEO, Washington, D. C. 20506.

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